HOT STUFF FESTIVE COFFEE WITH CANDY CANE CRUMBLE {page 13}

JUMP FOR JOY PUERTO VALLARTA OFFERS A BREATH OF FRESH SEASIDE AIR {page 11}

HOW SWEDE IT IS HOLLYWOOD SAYS 'HEJ' TO ALL THINGS SWEDISH {page 9}

WINNIPEG metro®

Wednesday, December 21, 2011
www.metronews.ca

News worth sharing.

Vi-Ann owner speaks out, urges customers to do same

Owner finds himself in 'bleakest of days' after mother's death **Restaurant on possible demolition block**

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC/METRO

▶ Vi-Ann owner Bac Bui has been known to help the homeless in the Village by cooking them meals in his kitchen.

A restaurant owner who lost his mother Monday finds out today if he will lose his business, too.

"Everything has happened at once. It's too much for me," said Bac Bui, owner of Vi-Ann restaurant in Osborne Village.

"I dream to have some money to start something of my own and I started the restaurant. I spent 25 years working in a factory and I have nothing now. It's terrible," said the 55-year-old.

Vi-Ann is close to losing its location of 11 years due to the proposed expansion of Shoppers Drug Mart next door. The expansion goes before the city's Board of Adjustment tonight, on which area councillor Jenny Gerbasi sits.

Bui found out about the potential loss of his restaurant only a week ago.

"I didn't know anything until the customer came here and say, 'Oh, you sell your business?' And that time I know something is going on," he said.

Martin Ringer, the building owner and landlord for Vi-Ann and Movie Village, offered Bui $10,000 as restitution. Bui refused.

"I spent 36 years to build this. I don't have 36 years left."
VI-ANN OWNER BAC BUI

"I might lose everything. Customers come and ask me what I (am going) to do and I have no plan because a week ago I still thought I had a business."

More than 600 customers have come to the restaurant to sign a petition against the expansion.

Bui said he will go to the Board of Adjustment meeting to voice his objections but is worried his broken English will hinder him from expressing his feelings.

"The people in the Village, they stand up and try to stop the (landlord). Tomorrow I go up there. What do I say?

"The people in (the Village), if they love me, please stand up and say no to Shoppers here."

The Board of Adjustment will meet in the West Committee Room at city hall at 5 p.m.

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC

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YouTube watchers love Maria Aragon

ELISHA DACEY
@METRONEWS.CA

YouTube loved watching Winnipeg's Maria Aragon this year.

The pint-sized powerhouse's rendition of Lady Gaga's Born This Way was the third-most-watched video on YouTube in Canada for 2011, and the eighth-most-watched video on the planet. As of Tuesday morning, it had racked up more than 45 million views.

At the beginning of the year, the 11-year old singer uploaded her version of Lady Gaga's hit and became a sensation after Gaga herself tweeted the link to the video, calling it beautiful, to her millions of followers. From there, it's been a whirlwind that included singing the song on stage with Lady Gaga in Toronto, landing a record deal in the Philippines, singing for William and Kate, performing at more events than she can count and a commercial deal with The Gap.

SUPPLIED

▶ Winnipeg's Maria Aragon, front, in a Gap commercial.

▶ Adrien Sala, director of development, and Jeremy Crassweller, kitchen assistant, at the Resource Assistance for Youth (RaY) centre. Sala said about 40 youth pass through RaY's doors every day.

Helping homeless youth celebrate the holidays

▶ Non-profit sees 1,000 unique youth every year
▶ Annual Christmas party paid for with donations

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC
WINNIPEG@METRONEWS.CA

Teens and young adults on the street have at least one place to celebrate the holidays.

The Resource Assistance for Youth (RaY) is working to make Christmas special for displaced youth by holding a full-turkey Christmas dinner Wednesday with prizes and games.

"We do this because a lot of our youth are not able to celebrate Christmas with their families," said Adrien Sala, director of development for RaY.

"We make it a family atmosphere."

Sala referred to the youth as "the hidden population" because he said their homelessness is concealed.

"This type of homelessness is not something you see. They're not out sleeping on the street but on couches. There needs to be more awareness in the province."

Sala said that some street youth come out of child and family services when they're 18 and don't have the skills needed to make the transition from foster care into independent living. Others might be on EI and can't find affordable housing and still more might have addictions or mental-health issues.

Currently, RaY is looking for donations, especially donations of personal-hygiene products and winter wear. Although various levels of government fund the non-profit, its Christmas party is paid by personal donations.

"What I want to get out there is that RaY is providing this opportunity for street youth," Sala said.

About RaY

- The organization helps youth, aged up to 29 years old, who are street-entrenched and homeless.
- Some basic services RaY provides are a food bank, showers, clothing, personal hygiene products, support groups and a health clinic.
- About 25 to 40 youth pass through RaY's doors every day, but during the holidays the number doubles.

Immigrants like Manitoba

Manitoba continues to grow as the population saw a gain of 15,700 people from October of last year to October 2011.

Statistics Canada released a report Tuesday showing Manitoba's population now sits at 1,254,700 people.

The gain is the second-highest level since record keeping began in 1971, and puts Manitoba above the national average for the third year in a row.

47K How much the population has grown in 36 months.

Three-quarters of all new immigrants come to Manitoba through the Provincial Nominee Program.

METRO

News in brief

Charges laid in torture case

'VICIOUS' ASSAULT. Two Winnipeg men have been sentenced to seven years in prison for torturing a man to get his bank-card PIN.

Court heard Harvey Maytwayashing and James Beardy, both 48, pleaded guilty to the assault, which the judge called "vicious."

The victim was beaten for hours and had hot knives held to his genitals. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Two robberies connected

CASH GRAB. Two people who were robbed on Winakwa Street Monday were likely robbed by the same person, police said.

Police are looking for a 20- to 25-year-old man in the brief string of robberies that happened around 11 p.m.

In both robberies, the suspect demanded money from the victims, aged 22 and 25, and was given either cash or a wallet. The suspect then ran away.

In the first robbery, a young woman was also with the suspect.

Police are looking for an aboriginal male, six feet tall with a large build and dark hair, wearing a hoodie and jeans.

METRO

1 news

New Yorkers wishing to be buried in pet cemeteries with their furry friends get good news from the state. Scan code for story.

1 Download the free ScanLife app with your smartphone at 2dscan.com

2 Use your smartphone to scan 2D barcodes in Metro

3 The codes will direct your mobile browser to **m.metronews.ca**

On the web at metronews.ca

Twitter's digital swear jar aims to turn your salty tweets into charitable donations. More at metronews.ca/video

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Premiers express dismay over health negotiations

Premiers who feel slighted by the federal government on health-care funding expressed their frustration Tuesday at Ottawa's tone and position in what they thought were supposed to be negotiations on a long-term deal.

"I think the process is unfortunate," said Saskatchewan's Brad Wall. "I think the finance ministers were expecting the beginning of a round of consultation and, at least on the transfer piece, that does not appear to be what the federal government's doing."

Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, Manitoba, Quebec and Prince Edward Island have also slammed Ottawa's position.

At Monday's meeting, Flaherty said Ottawa plans to continue increasing health transfer payments at six per cent annually for the next six years. After that, he said transfer payments will be tied to the rate of economic growth and inflation.

"We do need to talk about the way forward in terms of being fiscally responsible, not only at the federal level but across the country, all the governments," he said after the meeting.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Arrests made in Montreal Mafia slaying

Six men were arrested Tuesday in connection with the slaying of a powerful Mob boss who once led a New York City crime family.

One of those nabbed was Raynald Desjardins, a dominant figure in Montreal with past ties to the city's Rizzuto Mafia clan.

Desjardins, 59, and three other people are facing first-degree murder charges in the November death of alleged Mafia boss Salvatore Montagna, the head of New York's notorious Bonanno crime family. THE CANADIAN PRESS

White. Christmas

▶ Kevin Wesson shovels a path for customers at the Water Still in Amarillo, Texas, on Tuesday morning after an overnight storm covered the region with about an inch of ice and snow. Several major thoroughfares were closed after the storm clipped the northwest part of the state the day before the official start of winter.

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER//AMARILLO GLOBE-NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stormy weather takes States by surprise

Fierce winds and snow that caused fatal accidents and shuttered highways in five states crawled deeper into the central U.S. early Tuesday, with forecasters warning that pre-holiday travel would be difficult if not impossible across the region. Authorities said six people have died as a result of the bad weather.

Ontario researcher develops AIDS vaccine

University of Western Ontario claims vaccine is the only one of its kind being developed in Canada ◐ Will be produced in the U.S. ◐ Canada lacks facilities that meet standards

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

▶ University of Western Ontario researcher Yong Kang speaks Tuesday at the university's research park about a vaccine he has developed to prevent HIV/AIDS.

Yong Kang has played a role in developing vaccines for polio and hepatitis B.

Now, the University of Western Ontario researcher has earned approval from the U.S. government to start human clinical trials on what could be a breakthrough vaccination for preventing HIV.

The vaccine — technically named SAV001 — is the result of nearly 20 years worth of work at Western labs.

Kang, a molecular virologist, started studying the way HIV reproduces after landing in London during the early 1990s. About 10 years ago, he turned his focus toward developing a vaccine — something that he first thought would be a relatively simply task.

"Turns out, it was a very challenging problem," he said.

With the first of three trial phases set to begin in January, best-case scenario would see Kang's product on the market in five years. His vaccine attacks the whole virus instead of attacking bits and pieces, which is the way vaccines in previous HIV trials worked.

While HIV has been his key subject for many years, Kang said there's no one thing that drew him to the disease, except maybe the number of people it affects.

"I like to save lives," he said. "I think we can save millions."

ANGELA MULLINS IN LONDON, ONT.

Trial stages

- **Phase 1: Double-check the safety of the vaccine in humans.** Will involve about 40 HIV-positive volunteers.
- **Phase 2: Measure immune responses.** Will involve about 600 volunteers in the high-risk category for infection.
- **Phase 3: Measure the vaccine's ability to produce results.** Will involve about 6,000 volunteers in the high-risk category for infection.

Texting untrustworthy: Study

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Text messaging may be a more convenient mode of communication, but it may lead people to be more deceitful, according to a new study by UBC researchers.

The study involved 170 student brokers and buyers performing mock stock transactions in one of four ways: face-to-face or video, audio, or text chatting.

Researchers found that participants who received information via text message were 95 per cent more likely to report deception than if they had interacted via video; 31 per cent more likely to report deception compared to face-to-face; and 18 per cent more likely to report deception than audio. UBC professor Ronald Cenfetelli, co-author of the paper, said he was surprised that people's reaction at being lied to differed depending on the medium.

KENDRA WONG IN VANCOUVER

News in brief

Tories explain election error

The Conservative Party of Canada says there's an honest explanation for why it directed an Ontario woman to vote at the wrong polling station during the last federal election.

Carolyn Siopiolosz had complained to Elections Canada that she received a phone call a few days before the May 2 election telling her she was to vote at a polling station in downtown Kitchener rather than St. Clements, Ont., the town where she lived.

But a spokesman says it was simply a matter of human error. The voter's information was listed twice in the party's database under two different ridings, and she was directed to the wrong riding location.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The Very Posh Pinotage

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$17.99

Happy Dragon

Soft and generous fruit make this a great wine for sipping and supping.

$9.99

Inkspot

"Sweet ripe cherry and red plum fruit, a tight, liquorice quality ... savory to the end."

wine-pages.com

$13.50

The Dark Side

"On the palate the fruit is powerful and spicy, quite a lot of bang for the buck here."

wine-pages.com

$13.50

Egyptian women call for change

Military issues statement of regret for violations against women • Clinton slams Egypt's security forces

Around 10,000 women marched through central Cairo demanding Egypt's ruling military step down Tuesday in an unprecedented show of outrage over soldiers who dragged women by the hair and stomped on them, and stripped one half-naked in the street during a fierce crackdown on activists over the past week.

The dramatic protest, which grew as the women marched from Tahrir Square through downtown, was fuelled by the widely circulated images of abuses of women. Many of the marchers touted the photo of the young woman whose clothes were partially pulled off by troops, baring her down to her blue bra, as she struggled on the ground.

"Tantawi stripped your women naked, come join us," the crowd chanted to passersby, referring to Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi, the head of the military council that has ruled Egypt since the Feb. 11 fall of Hosni Mubarak. "The daughters of Egypt are a red line, they chanted.

The military council in a statement affirmed "its respect and total appreciation" for women and their right to protest and take part in political life. It promised it was taking measures to punish those responsible for violations.

The statement suggested the military's fear that attacks on women could wreck its prestige at home and abroad, which has already been heavily eroded by its fierce, five-day-old crackdown on pro-democracy protesters demanding it surrender power.

The ruling generals have campaigned to keep the public on its side in the confrontation, depicting the activists as hooligans and themselves as the honourable protectors of the nation, above reproach.

In a possibly significant hint of new flexibility, the military council also said in its statement Tuesday that it was prepared to discuss any initiatives to help the security of the country. In recent days, a number of political factions have pressed the military to hand over power by February, rather than June, when it promised to hold presidential elections.

The images of the half-stripped protester, whose identity is not known, clearly had a powerful resonance.

A banner showing a photo of her on the asphalt — one soldier yanking up her black robes and shirt, another poised to stomp on her chest — was put up in Tahrir Square for passing drivers to see.

"The girl dragged around is just like my daughter," said Um Hossam, a 54-year old woman in traditional black dress and a headscarf at Tuesday's march. "I am a free woman, and attacking this woman or killing protesters is just like going after one of my own children."

Ringed by a protective chain of men, the women marched from Tahrir to the Journalists' Syndicate, several blocks away, chanting slogans demanding the military council step down.

Two sisters, Yomna and Tasneem Shams, said they never took part in previous protests because their parents wouldn't allow them. But they happened to be downtown Tuesday and spontaneously joined the women's march.

"No one should ever be beaten for expressing their opinion," Yomna, 19, said. "I am proud I took part in today's protest. I feel I can tell my kids I have done something for them in the future."

Some also criticized Islamic parties, which stayed out of the anti-military protests and did not participate in Tuesday's march.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scare tactics?

- **Many accused the military** of intentionally targeting women to scare them and their male relatives from joining protests against the generals.
- **Previously, the military** has implied women who joined protests were of loose morals.
- **In March,** soldiers subjected detained female protesters to humiliating tests to determine if they were virgins.
- **"They want** to break their dignity so that they don't go out and protest," Maha Abdel-Nasser, an engineer who joined the march, said.

AMR NABIL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Women march during a protest against the crackdown by authorities on protesters in Cairo Tuesday.

News in brief

KERSTIN JOENSSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ Karima el-Mahroug

Woman in Berlusconi sex case has baby

ROME. Italian media say the Moroccan woman who is at the centre of a sex scandal with former Premier Silvio Berlusconi has given birth to a girl at a Genoa hospital. Luca Risso, the companion of 19-year-old Karima el-Mahroug, told Sky Italia TV News on Tuesday that mother and daughter are fine. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Son mourns Kim Jong Il

PYONGYANG. North Korea's anointed heir Kim Jong Un led a procession of mourners Tuesday to the glass coffin of his father and longtime ruler — a strong indication that a smooth leadership transition was under way in the country. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bird flu virus details on hold

The U.S. government is asking scientific journals and two top-flight research teams not to publish details of controversial studies on the bird flu virus, expressing concerns the information could be put to nefarious use. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Topless protesters abducted

A Ukrainian organization of topless women activists says three of its members were abducted by security officers during a protest against Belarus' authoritarian president, beaten, humiliated and left naked in a forest.

The group, called Femen, is widely known in Ukraine and neighbouring countries for its demonstrations in which women bare their breasts to draw attention to an array of causes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PIER PAOLO CITO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A Femen activist during a protest in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Nov. 6.

RESEARCH IN MOTION

Porn access on BlackBerry a concern in Britain

BlackBerry maker Research In Motion has been summoned to a meeting with the United Kingdom's telecommunications regulator amid concern that children are able to view pornography on its smartphones.

The London Telegraph reports that the problem appears to be unique to the BlackBerry, which has become increasingly popular among young users. RIM will be joined at the meeting by representatives of Britain's leading mobile networks.

While mobile phone operators have been able to apply filters to other handsets such as the iPhone, they have been unable to do so on the BlackBerry because data flows through its own services rather than those provided by the networks. RIM reportedly offered its filtering system to U.K. networks, but the offer has only been taken up by T-Mobile. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. THURSDAY

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas	Gold
+ 177.18 (11,716.88)	+ 0.79¢ (97.06¢ US)	+ 3.34¢ US ($97.22 US)	$3.128 US (+ 3.2¢ US)	$1,617.60 US (+ $20.90 US)

Inflation still high: StatsCan

DANNY JOHNSTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Grocery prices were up 5.7 per cent in November compared with a year ago as consumers saw double-digit increases for such basics as fresh vegetables and bread, Statistics Canada reported Tuesday.

▶ Prices rose in all areas the agency tracks across the country

Canada's annual inflation rate remained stubbornly high at 2.9 per cent last month as Canadians continued to pay considerably more for food and gasoline than they had 12 months earlier.

Statistics Canada said Tuesday that grocery prices were up 5.7 per cent in November compared with a year ago as consumers saw double-digit increases for such basics as fresh vegetables and bread. The figures included a 1.3 per cent jump from October alone. Food prices, including restaurant meals, were 4.8 per cent higher than a year earlier, the biggest such increase since July 2009, the federal agency said.

Gasoline also continued to be a key driver of annual inflation, rising 13.5 per cent in November from 12 months earlier. However, gasoline price inflation is on a downward track after peaking in May at close to 30 per cent. On a month-to-month basis, Canadians actually paid 2.3 per cent less for gas in November than they did in October.

"I think inflation may have more staying power than we expect."
DOUGLAS PORTER, BMO DEPUTY CHIEF ECONOMIST

The high cost of gasoline helped push the transportation component up 5.7 per cent, although that was less than the 6.7 per cent gain recorded in October.

Despite this, the Bank of Canada has repeatedly stressed that it is not worried about inflation even though it has remained above the bank's two per cent target for more than a year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CNN host won't give up source on McCartney message

A tense and sometimes confrontational Piers Morgan stood his ground before a judge-led inquiry into media ethics Tuesday, denying any connection to illegal phone hacking that has resulted in the closure of the newspaper he once edited and the arrest of friends and former colleagues.

But the celebrity interviewer, who edited the News of the World Sunday and the Daily Mirror, refused to answer questions about the damning link between himself and scandal — his 2006 acknowledgment that he had once listened to a poignant phone message left by former Beatle Paul McCartney for his ex-wife Heather Mills.

Mills has charged that there was no honest way Morgan could have heard the message — an allegation that could prove embarrassing to CNN, which brought the 46-year-old journalist on board in January to replace Larry King.

POOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ In this video image, CNN star interviewer Piers Morgan answers questions Tuesday from a media ethics inquiry in London from an unknown location in the U.S.

Morgan refused to go into any detail about the message. "I'm not going to discuss where I heard it or who played it to me," he told the inquiry. Pressed by the inquiry chief as to whether he could say anything to substantiate that he had obtained the message legally, Morgan said he could not. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hacking scandal

- **More than a dozen** journalists have been arrested.
- **Several other executives** with Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. have stepped down.
- **Top U.K. police officers** have resigned over failure to get grips on tabloid's illegal behaviour.

Homebuilding helps U.S. economy grow

A surge in U.S. apartment construction gave home builders more work in November. And permits, a gauge of future construction, rose largely because of a jump in apartment permits.

Some analysts say the gains, though coming off extremely low levels, suggest the depressed housing industry may have reached a turning point. Economists now say 2011 will be the first year since the Great Recession began in 2007 that home construction will have helped the economy grow. Before this year, the industry endured two of the worst years ever. "Homebuilding is through the worst and is now steadily improving," said Paul Diggle, a property economist at Capital Economics.

Builders broke ground on a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 685,000 homes in November, a 9.3 per cent jump from October, the government said on Tuesday. It's the highest level since April 2010. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CEO foresees shakeout in mobile industry

Constant discounts in the mobile-phone industry by new wireless companies can't last and will lead to industry consolidation, predicts the CEO of Wind Mobile. "Certainly, the promotional activity that's happening now is not sustainable," said Anthony Lacavera.

Mobilicity and Public Mobile launched in the spring of 2010 and Videotron later that fall, bringing more competition to the established players Rogers, Bell and Telus.

Lacavera is predicting that the new entrants will have to consolidate in 2012 as they get financially squeezed, but he says Wind Mobile won't be on the losing end. Public Mobile made a similar prediction, saying at least one of the two other new players — Wind or Mobilicity — would run out of money by the end of this year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tobacco giant sues again over legislation

Philip Morris is challenging the Australian government again over legislation that bans corporate logos and brand imagery on packages of cigarettes.

Subsidiary Philip Morris Limited filed a lawsuit Tuesday with the country's High Court over the legislation passed in November. It requires brand names to be written in a standard font against a drab dark-brown background starting in December 2012.

The New York company says billions of dollars of valuable trademarks and investments are at stake and the government has been unable to show that plain packaging would reduce smoking rates.

Subsidiary Philip Morris Asia already has served a notice of arbitration under an investment treaty. Philip Morris International Inc. sells Marlboro and other U.S. brands abroad. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RIP FEARLESS HITCHENS

JUST SAYIN' ...

METRO

It's tough, writing an appreciation of Christopher Hitchens, the brilliant essayist and author of God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything and the memoir Hitch 22, to name a couple.

Hitchens died last week, and an impressive array of pundits have tried to punch above their weight and write about Hitchens as well as Hitchens wrote about himself.

The results have been admirable, although we could do without the manly memoirs from those who tried to match the master drink for drink and stay on their barstools. Typical of this school is Graydon Carter, the editor of Vanity Fair, who wrote that after having more drinks at lunch than most of us have in a lifetime at lunch, they stumbled back to the office and Hitchens "produced a 1,000-word column of near perfection in under half an hour."

"When you're a writer, intellectual freedom is your most precious resource. Unless you write the truth (as you know it, in your heart) with complete fearlessness, you are producing weasel poop."

The other unsettling thing about the coverage is that it's universally by guys about a guy. Hitchens famously maintained that women aren't funny, and as far as I can tell, most women continue to hold that against him.

Otherwise, just about everything you could ever say, hope to say or imagine that someone, someday might say has been written about Christopher Hitchens. So why bother to add to the pile?

Maybe it's because, as Carter writes, "you felt as though he was writing to you and to you alone." We all had a front row seat to The Show thanks to Hitchens, who would tackle any topic on our behalf, from Mother Teresa, whom he detested as the benign, loving face of oppression, to Holocaust denier David Irving, tolerating him and his odious outlook in the name of intellectual freedom.

When you're a writer, intellectual freedom is your most precious resource. Unless you write the truth (as you know it, in your heart) with complete fearlessness, you are producing weasel poop. At best.

Hitchens was completely fearless. He proved it time and again, but most of all when he turned his back on the left to support the U.S. invasion of Iraq, arguing that "Islamofascism" is the greatest threat of our time. It started when the Ayatollah of Iran put a fatwah (a kind of assassination contract with religious trappings) on his good friend Salman Rushdie for writing The Satanic Verses.

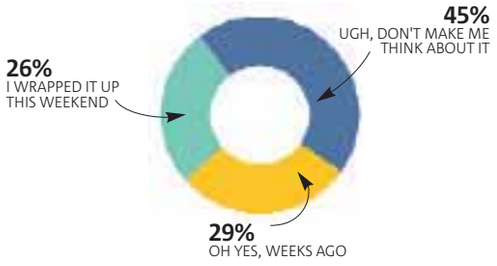
If it weren't three sentences long, this quote about the fatwah from his memoir should be written on his tomb: "It was, if I can phrase it like this, a matter of everything I hated versus everything I loved. In the hate column: dictatorship, religion, stupidity, demagogy, censorship, bullying and intimidation. In the love column: literature, irony, humour, the individual and the defense of free expression."

Christopher Hitchens, wherever you are, let 'er RIP.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Five days left. Have you finished your shopping?



Local tweets

- **@eyamie:** It's raining. In Winnipeg. In December. #apocalypse #fb
- **@BubbaBthemc:** Ha ha its raining in Winnipeg 5 days B4 Christmas! #Winning But will the Despots recall this in the Future?
- **@sherie_turek:** It's a sad day when u find out it's raining on twitter b4 u see it out the window in front of u #Winnipeg
- **@afoat:** You know is nice out in December when the birds are chirping like it's spring and the girls are wearing mini skirts outside. #Winnipeg
- **@ChrisDca:** City notes tree recycling depot at Pan Am Pool is closed – doesn't stop dozens of trees ending up there each year anyway. #Winnipeg
- **@jerrypeppers:** @MitchysPimpHand here's a pun for you. Did you hear selanne is planning to Finnish his career in Winnipeg? Don't be too harsh with reply.
- **@Dannysuperstar:** World ends in one year from tomorrow. Time to get s–t together
- **@samposnick:** Uh, hey, Internet? I'm not afraid of words, I know how to read. This means I don't need a video to illustrate every damn article.

SHIKHEI GOH/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Fly battles rain to win contest

WILDLIFE. It looks like one of those classic, endearing "Hang in there, baby" motivational posters. This dragonfly in Indonesia's Riau Islands seems to cling on to a reed to brave a torrent of rain. The photo by Shikhei Goh beat 20,000 entries to win the 2011 National Geographic Photography Contest. MWN

"It suddenly rained, but the lighting was just superb. The result caused me to be overjoyed."
SHIKHEI GOH, PHOTOGRAPHER

Judges' views

- **Amy Toensing:** "When I look at it, I want to say, 'Hold on tight, little buddy!'"
- **Peter Essick"** "It's rare indeed to see a photograph that causes the viewer to feel a bond with a member of the animal world seemingly, but maybe not, so unlike our own."

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A Swedish invasion

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo has spurred a demand for Scandinavian backdrops in new films ◗ But that's nothing new to Hollywood ◗ Sweden has always been a cinema focal point

IN FOCUS

SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

These days it seems there are almost as many movies set in Sweden as there are Billy bookshelves in college dorms. The original Girl with the Dragon Tattoo books and movie series kicked off a thirst for all things Scandinavian.

Headhunters, a Norwegian noir, was a big hit recently at the Toronto International Film Festival and Let the Right One In placed vampires against a snowy, stark white Swedish backdrop.

This weekend the Americanized version of Girl With the Dragon Tattoo opens, starring Daniel Craig and Rooney Mara in the roles Swedish superstars Michael Nyqvist and Noomi Repace made famous. Shot in Sweden, the movie promises open landscapes, the crunch of snow underfoot and even the odd fjord.

Suddenly, it seems people are hungry for movies from Sweden, Norway and Denmark, but there has always been a smorgasbord of cinema available from that part of the world.

No discussion of Scandinavian cinema can be complete without mentioning Ingmar Bergman. Woody Allen named him "the greatest film artist since the invention of the motion picture camera," and Francis Ford Coppola called him "my all-time favourite."

If you haven't seen The Seventh Seal or Wild Strawberries, you should; they are both classics. But you have undoubtedly seen movies inspired by or parodying Bergman's work.

His famous Seventh Seal scene of Death playing chess has been mimicked in everything from Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey to Woody Allen's play Death Knocks, which features a man playing gin rummy with Death.

More recently a Norwegian mockumenary called Troll Hunter earned praise from critics all over the world. One writer said this Blair-Witch-style story of cave-dwelling trolls and the government-sponsored hunters who track them was "destined to be a classic of its kind."

Another said, "You'll want to catch this clever movie before Hollywood ruins everything with a dumb remake."

Denmark has a thriving film industry. Since 1956 they've entered 40 flicks for Best Foreign Film consideration at the Academy Awards.

At last year's Oscars Susanne Bier's drama In a Better World beat Canada's entry Incendies to take home Best Foreign Film.

The best-known Danish films of recent years have been made by Lars von Trier, the distinctive and controversial director of Breaking the Waves and this year's Melancholia. As well known for his depressed behaviour as he is for his films, Von Trier once said, "Basically, I'm afraid of everything in life, except filmmaking."

HANDOUT

▶ The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo has set off a demand for all things Scandinavian.

Movie reviews

See it twice ●●●●● | See it now ●●●● Worth watching ●●● | Yawn ●● | Don't bother ●

THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN

Genre: Drama
Director: Steven Spielberg
●●●½

HANDOUT

Based on three of Hergé's original Tintin books, The Adventures of Tintin is a long series of clues strung together to form the story and connect the action scenes. But despite the well-loved characters and Andy Serkis's brilliant work, this is a Steven Spielberg movie through and through.

Using a mix of motion capture and CGI he is finally able to recreate the giant set pieces he has always been fond of in boldface.

The motorcycle chase through a North African town, a plane crash in the desert and a swashbuckling flashback are all spectacular, exhilarating sequences, but they feel more Spielbergian than Tintin-ian.

I'm not sure if Hergé purists will appreciate the director's vision imposed on their beloved characters but for everyone else The Adventures of Tintin is good, escapist fun.

● RICHARD CROUSE

Winnipeg

- **GRANT PARK 8 CINEMAS:** (PG) Wed-Thu 3:40-6:45-9:20
- **LANDMARK TOWNE CINEMAS:** (PG) Wed-Thu 7-9:20
- **SILVERCITY POLO PARK:** (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:40; IMAX 3D (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 11:30-5
- **SILVERCITY ST VITAL:** (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 4-7-10-10

2 scene

Not dead

False reports of Jon Bon Jovi's death spread online after a fake news release surfaced on social media sites. Bon Jovi released a statement Tuesday showing that he is very much still alive.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Judge shifts legal, other expenses from executors of Michael Jackson's estate

Lady and the Trump

Just how has Lady Gaga become the global sensation she is today? Why, taste-maker Donald Trump, of course

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Toupéed reality TV star Donal Trump says because Lady Gaga performed at the 2008 Miss Universe pageant, which Trump owns, he should get all of the credit for her success.

"We always have an entertainer," he says.

"We've had a lot of great people, and you don't pay them anything because it's one of the biggest audiences and my people told me, 'Nobody knows who she is but there's this woman with good talent named Lady Gaga.'

And I said, 'Give me a break.' And then they said, 'She's really good.' So I said, 'I don't care, if you like her, put her on.'"

Interesting. And here we always thought it was the gays who propelled Lady Gaga to international stardom.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Lady Gaga

Did Donald Trump also discover Key West?

▶ Donald Trump

▶ Demi Moore

Demi Moore wants to empower you

The Conversation, Demi Moore's new talk show on which she serves as the Executive Producer, is on schedule to air next month on Lifetime with British TV personality Amanda De Cadenet as host.

The Conversation, which claims to be about empowering women, has already nabbed such guests as Lady Gaga, Gwyneth Paltrow, Olivia Wilde and Jane Fonda.

Apparently, they plan on "empowering women" by asking these extremely successful women such questions as "What is your favourite sex position?" and "What do you lie about?"

Maybe instead of such inane questions, The Conversation would empower females better if these celebs talked to women about the importance of education, birth control, and how to fight sexism in the work place.

Besides, everyone knows that for Gwyneth Paltrow, the answer is "missionary."

DOROTHY ROBINSON

Was James Franco a D-student at university?

Former New York University professor Jose Angel Santana claims the school fired him for giving James Franco a D, and he's suing to get his job back, according to the New York Post.

Santana claims the low grade was due to Franco missing 12 out of 14 classes, though he says the school sided with their famous student.

"In my opinion, they've turned the NYU graduate film degree into swag for James Franco's purposes, a possession, something you can buy," Santana tells the newspaper.

"The University has done everything in its power to curry favour with James Franco."

METRO

James Franco

Celebrity tweets

Death to LOL

@BrunoMars

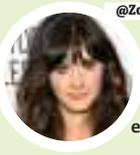
@oliviawilde

Is it wrong that the only time I've been in the gym in the last month is to buy peanut butter smoothies? I try my best to lunge in and out.

@michaelianblack

If anybody (Jude Law) wants to trade lives with me, NO THANK YOU!!! (yes, please)

@ZooeyDeschanel



this weather just makes me feel like eating.

I ain't got you babe: Chaz and his fiancée split

After featuring their tear-filled proposal on his reality series, Being Chaz, Chaz Bono and Jennifer Elia have split up, calling off their engagement, according to TMZ.

"They leave this relationship with great love, respect and affection toward one another.

No further amplification will be forthcoming and they ask that you respect their privacy at this time," says a rep for the former Dancing with the Stars contestant.

METRO

▶ Jennifer Elia, left, and Chaz Bono

Lies, all lies, says Scarjo

British newspaper the Mirror has suggested that Scarlett Johansson is dating musician Dan White of the band Tribes after meeting earlier this month while she films a new movie in London, but Johansson says they're pretty far off.

"I've never heard of him, I've never met him, and I've never listened to his band," she tells Us Weekly.

METRO

▶ Scarlett Johansson

Tired of the dreariness of winter and in need of some sunshine? Welcome to Mexico's seaside town of Puerto Vallarta There's more than just sunny days in this port town

Pacific Paradise

BRENDA NUNEZ
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

'Vallarta', as locals call it, is a quaint village nestled in Banderas Bay that opens out into the Pacific Ocean. One of Mexico's most cosmopolitan cities, it's also the country's gay capital. Blessed with year round warm temperatures, the sparkling seaside town is a breath of fresh air compared to the capital Mexico City.

A hot spot for sea and art lovers, there is beauty in everything you see from the red tiled houses, cobbled streets and ocean views. Although a major tourist destination, Vallarta has managed to stay clear of clichés and remains in essence a quiet fishing village.

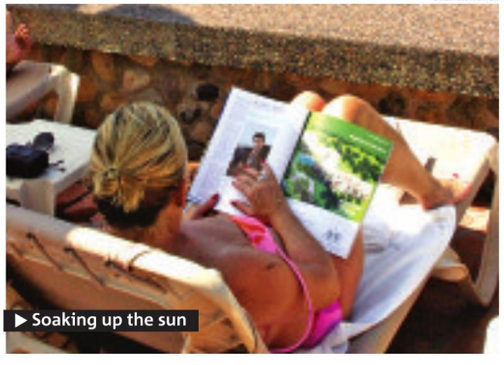
BRENDA NUÑEZ

First time?

On top of the endless stretch of pristine coastline, there are plenty of outdoor activities to keep you busy here. Go horseback riding along the coast, deep sea diving or fishing or for a jeep ride through the jungle. Bring some binoculars with you so that you can do a bit of bird watching at the same time. If you're brave enough, go bungee jumping into the ocean (vallarta-adventures.com). Nature lovers will enjoy a trip to the Botanical Gardens (vbgardens.org), where they will find out more about local flowers including orchids. Or go for a walk in the chocolate, coffee and vanilla garden. Spend a relaxing morning playing golf at Punta Mita Golf club at the Four Season's Hotel (fourseasons.com) or simply sunbathe at Playa Camarones (Shrimp Beach).

Been there before?

BRENDA NUÑEZ



▶ Soaking up the sun

Soak up the sun at Playa Los Muertos beach, a favourite of the gay scene, or head to Mismaloya, where you can walk along the same stretch of sand where Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton filmed The Night of the Iguana in 1964.

Discover the area's unique art and culture, an integral part of daily life that isn't just limited to Vallarta's galleries but reflected in every aspect of local architecture.

The seafront walkway is adorned with beautiful sculptures: highlights include the famous Arcos arches or the Caballito sculpture of a boy on the back of a seahorse.

If you want to learn more about the local Huichol culture, visit Nueva Valle, in the neighbouring state of Nayarit.

There you can buy beautifully crafted jewelry and leather bags.

Shop

The best place to buy local souvenirs is the historic Rio Cuale Market near the Cuale River. Here you will find plenty of Huichol culture arts and crafts as well as mainstream beach dresses and wrestling masks. Shopping malls, including Galerias Vallarta Maritime and the Plaza Peninsula, are great for getting more generic souvenirs. If it's jewelry and antiques you're after, go for a stroll along the Malecón boardwalk.

BRENDA NUÑEZ

▶ Market crafts

Eat and drink!

For a traditional breakfast, head to Mama Rosa (mamarosavallarta.com). Their refried beans, empanadas and café de olla (cinnamon coffee) are the perfect start to the day. El Brujo is another great option, especially if you're a fan of molcajetes (steak, onions and white cheese in pepper sauce served with flour tortilla, beans and guacamole). Restaurant La Leche, owned by chef Alfonso Cadena (lalecherestaurant.com) is perfect for a late lunch or dinner. The decor is quirky; milk cans adorn the shelves and the food is always a surprise with a new menu is posted every night. Have a shot of tequila at La Casa del Tequila, which has more than 50 flavours to choose from.

3 life

Travel in brief

Eight casinos on the Las Vegas Strip are planning a co-ordinated fireworks show as part of Sin City's annual New Year's Eve celebration. Officials said Wednesday that more than 56,000 effects will light up the sky as part of a nearly nine-minute show featuring a medley of songs including LMFAO's Party Rock Anthem. Eight casinos will be used as firing locations: Tropicana Las Vegas, MGM Grand, Aria, Planet Hollywood, Caesars Palace, Treasure Island, the Venetian and the Stratosphere. Tourism officials at the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority say they expect 315,000 people to celebrate the milestone in Las Vegas. Fremont Street Experience and Fremont Street East also plan celebrations downtown.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cancun rated cheapest Caribbean destination, Saint Barthelemy the priciest

Island fit for an Empress

Martinique has a rich history as the former home of Napoleon Bonaparte's Empress Josephine Think of it as a tropical France

MARTINIQUE PROMOTION BUREAU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's easy to feel decadent swimming and sunbathing on the beaches of Martinique.

Even now, Paris feels a world away from this tropical paradise.

How much farther the immense capital must have seemed to Marie-Josephe-Rose Tascher de la Pagerie, a teenager on a remote sugar plantation with an improbable future. "You will be queen," a fortune-teller told her, according to the local legend.

Indeed, she would leave this southeast Caribbean island and rise through French society through the last days of its monarchy, the French Revolution and Reign of Terror to marry Napoleon Bonaparte, who would crown her Empress Josephine. Josephine's humble beginnings on Martinique are explored here in a museum, the Domaine de la Pagerie, just outside the resort village of Les Trois-Ilets, named for three little islands just off shore.

When Josephine lived here in the mid-18th century, Martinique was a French colony. Her family owned more than 200 slaves on their plantation south of the capital, now called Fort-de-France, and the songs sung by these slaves and their descendants in Martinique's sugar cane fields are now performed by professional musicians and dancers wearing bright Madras plaids in luxury hotels.

Just the foundation of their "great house" remains, a modest stone square set in a green field of grass under the gaze of a white stone bust of Josephine.

The original house, set atop a small hill with a view of its fields in the valley below, was blown down in a hurricane when Josephine was not much more than a toddler. Financial problems kept her parents from rebuilding, so the family moved into the upper quarters of the property's sugar factory.

The legacy of slavery still tarnishes Josephine's reputation in Martinique. Many still blame her for Napoleon's reinstitution of slavery when France regained control of its colonies from the British, even though it's unclear whether Josephine influenced that decision. It certainly would have benefited her family, members of the island's wealthy elite who have considerable land holdings to this day. There's nothing subtle about the condition of the statue of Josephine in the main square in Fort-de-France, where the intimidating stone fort still looms over cruise ships and ferries in the harbour. The white stone figure is regal in a flowing, low-cut gown, but it was vandalized years ago — beheaded, red paint splattered down the white dress and Josephine's name struck from the pedestal.

Martinique is a department of France. French is the official language and the euro is the official currency.

But its cuisine — French staples spiced with curry, fresh seafood, tropical fruits — is flavoured by what's grown locally along with the mix of African and Indian dishes brought to the island over the centuries.

Visitors to Martinique can experience tropical splendour at the Jardin de Balata, a botanical garden perched in the hills above Fort-de-France. A paved walkway winds its way through bromeliads, orchids, palms, flowering trees and a cluster of the Balisier flower, the flower of Martinique, a red blossom that looks something like a Bird of Paradise.

Farther north along Martinique's Caribbean side are the black sand beaches around the small town of Saint-Pierre, built around the ruins left by a volcano that smoked through Josephine's lifetime and finally erupted in 1902.

Off the island's Atlantic coast are the "baths of Josephine," shallow turquoise waters where the young, would-be empress swam, according to local legend.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If you go...

- **Getting there:** Air France flies to Fort-de-France from Miami. American Airlines flies to Fort-de-France through San Juan, Puerto Rico. Flights can be pricier to Martinique than to some of the other islands frequented by North Americans.
- **Travel tips:** Think of Martinique as tropical France. You'll be spending euros, and speaking French is widely expected.
- **For more information:** martinique.org

MARTINIQUE PROMOTION BUREAU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Visitors can enjoy Martinique's tropical splendour at Balata Garden.

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A sweet ending to the holidays

This unique upside down cake is a nice escape from your typical frosted Christmas treats

EMILY RICHARDS

▶ This recipe serves 12.

HOLIDAY HELPER

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

This stunning cake brings the sweet and vanilla scented flavour of birch syrup to pears, and it would work just as well with firm baking apples.

The dark colour of pure birch syrup enhances the cake and adds a unique flavour. Try it in other baking where you would use vanilla extract as a start.

You can make this cake ahead up to two days and warm it up slightly before serving it with a dollop of whipped cream and a sprinkle of cinnamon

Ingredients:

- ½ cup (125 mL) butter, softened
- ¾ cup (175 mL) packed brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) vanilla
- 1-1/2 cups (375 mL) all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp (5 mL) ground cardamom or cinnamon
- 1 tsp (5 mL) baking powder
- ½ tsp (2 mL) baking soda
- Pinch salt
- ½ cup (125 mL) sour cream

Pear Topping:

- ⅓ cup (75 mL) pure birch syrup
- ¼ cup (50 mL) packed brown sugar
- ¼ cup (50 mL) chopped toasted pecans
- 3 ripe Bosc or Bartlett pears

Preparation:

1 Pear Topping: In saucepan, heat birch syrup, brown sugar over medium-high heat until it begins to bubble. Boil gently for 1 minute, stirring. Pour into greased 9-inch (23 cm) cake pan. Sprinkle with pecans.

2 Peel, quarter and core pears. Slice pears into about ¼ inch (5 mm) thick slices, lengthwise. Arrange over maple mixture in concentric circles overlapping each other slightly. Set aside.

3 In bowl, beat butter and sugar until fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, beating after each addition. Beat in vanilla. In another bowl, combine flour, cardamom, baking powder, soda and salt. Alternately, stir flour mix and sour cream into butter mix making 3 additions of flour and 2 of sour cream until combined (batter will be thick).

4 Scrape into cake pan over pears. Smooth batter carefully without moving pears. Bake in 350°F (180°C) oven 40 mins. or until tester inserted in centre comes out clean. Let cool in pan 20 mins.

5 Invert cake pan onto serving plate and turn over, removing cake pan. Scrape any pear topping from the pan onto cake.

EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR & TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA

Holiday prep

We're here to help

This is the final edition of Emily Richard's Holiday Helper. Check out metronews.ca/food for past editions.

Drink of the week

Christmas Coffee

It's the holidays. You don't have to work, so why not make your caffeine fix a little more festive?

- 1 oz Bailey's Mint Chocolate
- .25 oz Frangelico
- .25 oz Kahlua
- Hot coffee

Stir everything with freshly brewed coffee in a large, tempered glass. Top with whipped cream — homemade tastes better, but the canned stuff will look prettier — and sprinkle with shaved dark chocolate and candy cane crumble. Replace the last two liqueurs with Irish whiskey if the sun's already set. **JOE HOWELL, TORONTO BARTENDER**

JOE HOWELL

A delicious and classic party offering

While most people opt for a store-bought version, French Onion Dip isn't difficult to make from scratch

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ This recipe serves 16.

Always a family favourite, this herb enhanced onion dip is delicious served up with kettle chips as a classic, but try it with fresh cut veggies or use it as a new dip idea for chicken or steak or a spread for a new crostini idea.

Ingredients:

- 30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil
- 2 large sweet onions, sliced
- 4 shallots, sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 5 ml (1 tsp) salt
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tub (500 g) low-fat cottage cheese
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) chopped fresh thyme
- 10 ml (2 tsp) chopped fresh marjoram
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) chopped fresh chives

Preparation:

1 In a large skillet heat olive oil over medium heat. Add onions, shallots, garlic, salt and pepper and cook for 15 to 18 minutes, stirring occasionally or until onions are browned and caramelized. If garlic begins to brown too much, add a few tablespoons of water and continue cooking.

2 Let mixture cool for 10 minutes, then transfer to a food processor and puree until smooth. Add cottage cheese, thyme and marjoram. Purée again until smooth. Stir in chopped chives.

3 Serve immediately or cover and refrigerate for at least an hour for flavours to meld.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Mix learning with living it up

One student weighs in on the importance of balancing work and play while piecing through post-secondary

STUDENT VOICE

AYSHA KHALIQ
TALENTEGG.CA

I moved to Nova Scotia to attend school full-time. Cape Breton University (CBU) has an awesome business school where I didn't only study and learn, but I also enjoyed my life more than I ever had before.

There are many reasons why I call my time there the best days of my life. If I have to explain in a few lines, what I loved the most was the super friendly learning environment, highly qualified teachers with a lot of experience, the library — such a good source of research in physical and electronic forms, the sports complex with many free-of-cost facilities and last but not least my residence.

When I moved to Cape Breton, I did not know a single person there. In the beginning, I was quite concerned what my life would be like there without family and friends.

However, surprisingly, when I left the university, I knew many people from security guards, café workers, librarians to professors and students and I was filled with good memories from all of them. Now I am very blessed to have a big circle of wonderful family and friends on the other side of Canada too.

▶ Aysha Khaliq believes schools should have more programs in place to help students assess what direction they'd like to head in after graduation.

In the beginning of my last semester, I started applying for different jobs and I focused on the specific industry I was interested in.

Since I had started looking early, I had enough time to find the right place in a specific industry and find the right job.

In October 2010, I graduated with an MBA and the Valedictorian designation from Cape Breton University and a few job offers.

I believe schools should have a special program in the last two semesters of graduate studies in order to help students figure out what they want to do in the future. If students have the right plan from the start, it helps them to get into the right industry too.

In general, my advice for students would be that our university days won't come back. We should have as much fun as we can. However, at the same time opportunity won't knock on the door again and again.

We should try to balance getting good grades, building networks, and enjoying our time.

TALENTEGG.CA, CANADA'S ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADS, WANTS TO HEAR YOUR STUDENT VOICE. SHARE IT AT TALENTEGG.CA.

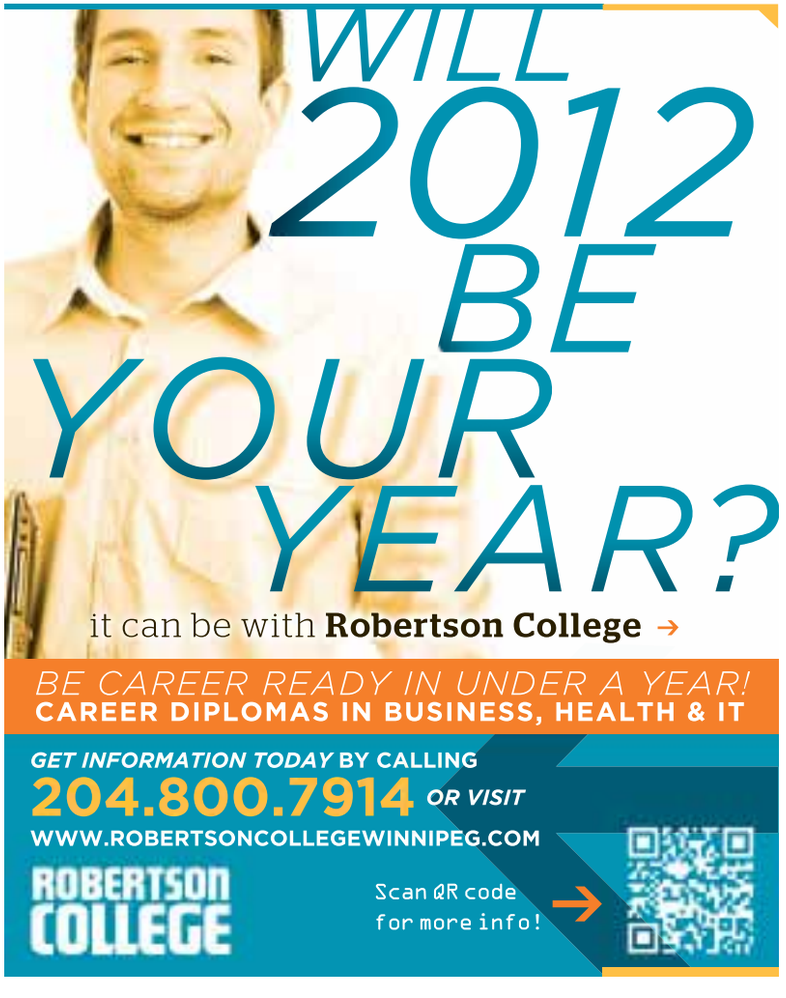
Where Aysha is now

Before my graduation, I was offered a few positions. I took my time making a decision and kept the idea of career advancement in my mind. Finally, I accepted a personal banking officer position at Scotiabank.

What I learned

Key take-aways from Aysha's experience

- Travel for school and work while you can. It might seem scary at first, but you'll learn and grow a lot!
- Plan the next steps in your career or education before you graduate so you're not stuck with nothing to do.
- Try to stay balanced in everything that you do — success takes hard work, networking and fun.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University gets ruff

Schools going to the dogs? Dorms welcoming pets

BRUCE WALSH
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
MWN IN PHILADELPHIA

ISTOCK

▶ Throw me a bone, will ya?

Over the last decade, the number of pet-friendly dorms has been on the rise, albeit at a caged snail's pace. In 2010 the New York Times put the number of campuses with pet-friendly housing at just 12, and most were small, private colleges.

But 2012 may prove to be the tipping point, as many administrators in university housing say this is the hottest topic in their field.

"In local meetings of [the Association of College and University] Housing Officers, we are often the institution that people are looking for answers from on this issue," says Ben Falter, the director of housing at Stetson University in Florida. Stetson currently has 60 pet-friendly individual units on campus. "People are really pressing to know how to do it and how it's working for us."

Stetson became pet-friendly in 2010, after incoming president Wendy B. Libby pressed the issue. Libby is the former president of Stephens College, ranked second-most pet-friendly school in the nation by Petside.com.

But even at the most liberal colleges, many administrators still see pitfalls.

"We had a lot of discussion around things like, will dorms be inspected to ensure that animals are well cared for? Who will be responsible for that? How will we set standards?" says Unity College's assistant professor of wildlife, Sarah Cunningham. Unity decided against pet-friendly dorms this year.

"You have to have a plan to make sure you're taking care of these animals humanely if, as a college, you're going to be responsible for students having animals."

Jets fall short in shootout

Parenteau scores winner for Islanders ● Winnipeg misses chance to climb into 7th place

ISLANDERS	JETS
3	2

TREVOR HAGAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Evander Kane crashes into New York Islanders goaltender Al Montoya on Tuesday night.

P.A. Parenteau scored in regulation and added the shootout winner to give the New York Islanders a 3-2 win over the Winnipeg Jets on Tuesday.

Parenteau and Frans Nielsen beat Jets goaltender Ondrej Pavelec in the shootout, while Islanders goalie Evgeni Nabokov stopped Blake Wheeler and Kyle Wellwood on their attempts.

Parenteau and Michael Grabner gave the Islanders a pair of one-goal leads in the first two periods, but Nik Antropov and Andrew Ladd responded for the Jets.

Pavelec kept the Jets (15-13-5) in the game with acrobatic saves from start to finish. He stopped 31 of the 33 shots he faced.

Nabokov stopped all 19 shots he faced for the Islanders (11-14-6) in relief of starting goaltender Al Montoya.

Montoya made 17 saves on 19 shots before a collision with Evander Kane late in the second period forced him to leave the game. Kane was given a penalty for goaltender interference despite arguing that defenceman Milan Jurcina pushed him into Montoya.

The Jets would have moved into a tie with Ottawa and Toronto for seventh place in the log-jammed Eastern Conference with a win, but instead are in a ninth-place tie with Washington and Buffalo.

The Jets finish their six-game home stand with games against Montreal on Thursday and Pittsburgh on Friday. The Islanders face the Rangers at Madison Square Garden on Thursday.

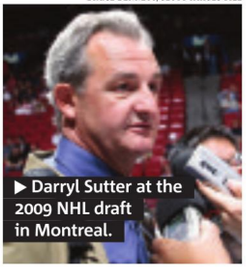
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sutter set to take over as Kings coach

Darryl Sutter will be the Los Angeles Kings' next head coach, general manager Dean Lombardi announced Tuesday.

Sutter will assume his duties beginning with practice Wednesday, after which the club will hold a news conference to introduce him. He takes over a Kings team (15-14-4) that entered Tuesday three points out of a playoff spot in the Western Conference with the second-fewest goals in the league — just three more than the New York Islanders. The Kings are currently riding a streak of 12 consecutive games in which they've scored no more than two goals in regulation.

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES FILE



▶ Darryl Sutter at the 2009 NHL draft in Montreal.

10

Darryl Sutter-coached teams have made the playoffs in 10 of his 12 seasons on the bench, including in 2004 when his Calgary Flames made the Stanley Cup final.

The Kings, whose next game is Thursday night in L.A. against the struggling Anaheim Ducks, fired coach Terry Murray on Dec. 12 in Boston before starting a four-game road trip. Assistant coach John Stevens was 2-2 on an interim basis.

It's the ninth time in franchise history the Kings will finish a season with a different coach than the one they started with. They made the playoffs on three of those occasions.

Sutter, 53, has a career regular-season record of 409-320-131 and a 47-54 mark in the playoffs. He has won division titles as coach in Chicago, San Jose and Calgary.

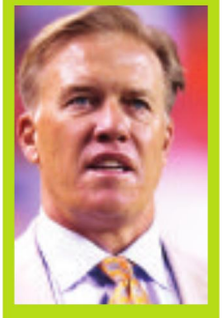
He also was general manager of the Flames from the 2003-04 season until he resigned Dec. 28, 2010, with the team sitting last in the Western Conference.

Sutter is one of nine head coaches in NHL history to lead at least three different clubs to 100 wins.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 sports

Quoted



"Tim Tebow's not going anywhere. I mean, he's going to be a Bronco and we're going to do everything we can and hopefully he's that guy."

DENVER BRONCOS BOSS JOHN ELWAY OFFERS A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FOR QUARTERBACK TIM TEBOW.

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Cargo

The interior has been given the update treatment, providing a slightly enlarged passenger area but at the expense of slightly reduced cargo volume.

This time, though, maximizing the load floor is a snap with the new fold-down rear seat that operates by flipping a pair of levers located just inside the tailgate.

Fuel consumption

Fuel consumption has improved to 9.0 l/100 km city and 6.4 highway for front-wheel-drive models (formerly 10.5/7.3). All-wheel-drive models are rated at 9.2 l/100 km city and 6.6 highway (previously 10.1/7.5).

The improvements are attributed to a new anti-friction coating for the pistons, a faster-activating on-demand AWD system as well as a revised five-speed automatic transmission.

Engine, steering

Getting CR-V owners to work, the gym, or the daycare is a revised 2.4-litre four-cylinder engine that makes 185 horsepower and 163 pound-feet of torque, which is slightly more than the previous 2.4.

From observation, Honda engineers have largely succeeded at smoothing out the CR-V's ride and creating a quieter interior. On the down side, the newly installed "Motion-Adaptive" electric power-assisted steering (called EPAS) feels a bit numb, especially when driving straight down the highway.

▶ Subtle changes are sometimes the best: reorganizing a few lines at the back creates this dramatic profile.

Resculpted not recreated

MALCOLM GUNN
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WHEELBASE MEDIA

Calling all cool moms; your new fourth-generation Honda CR-V chariot awaits.

Of course Honda's popular tall wagon isn't just for active women with toddlers in tow, but according to the automaker, the "cool moms" segment makes up, or significantly influences, the largest portion of CR-V buyers. They, along with others seeking a roomy ride with all-weather, all-road capability, will appreciate the vehicle's car-like behaviour and economical operation.

CR-V devotees will not easily spot the latest version of Honda's compact "cute ute" since it closely mirrors the outgoing version in all key exterior dimensions. What's more, the general shape remains only moderately tinkered-with, including updated nose and tail section plus a more dramatically shaped rear roof pillar that introduces a bit more drama to the vehicle's styling. Honda claims that the new CR-V's shape, along with modifications to the undercarriage to increase air flow, has reduced fuel-robbing aerodynamic drag by eight per cent.

Honda seems content with not rocking the boat with its latest CR-V, perhaps sensing that the time isn't quite right to introduce a totally clean-sheet design. The cool-mom crowd would likely agree.

▶ The opening is wide and the load floor is deeper and extends 1.5 metres forward, but you'll have to wiggle, shimmy and wedge items around the bulbous trim panels for the wheel housings.

▶ The green button to the left of the steering wheel is "ECON," which optimizes the transmission and air conditioning for maximum fuel economy, providing you're driving in a thrifty manner.

Honda CR-V

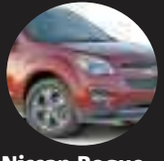
What you should know about the 2012 Honda CR-V:

- **Types:** Four-door, front- /all-wheel-drive five-passenger tall wagon.
- **Engine (hp):** 2.4-litre DOHC I4 (185).
- **Transmission:** Five-speed automatic.
- **Market position:** Modestly sized wagons, including the segment-dominant CR-V, are hot sellers and provide less costly and more fuel-efficient alternatives to traditional truck-based sport utes.
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 9.0/6.4 (FWD).

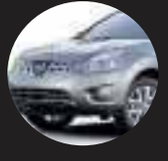
5 drive

By comparison

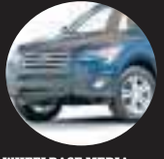
Chevrolet Equinox
Base price: $27,800
Stylish, roomy wagon specializes in a quiet ride and impressive fuel numbers.



Nissan Rogue
Base price: $25,400
Looks like a smaller version of Nissan's Murano, which is a bonus.



Hyundai Santa Fe
Base price: $25,800
Conservative looks, but a solidly built standout with optional V-6 power.



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CAR JOURNEYS PART OF THE HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE

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ISTOCK

▶ Chances are your vehicle will be involved in some sort of memory you create during the holidays.

It's perfectly fine that the vehicle's main role during the holidays is helping us get to where we want to be, like with our families, or extremely far away from our families where there is also a good beach.

We don't need to start stringing lights on every Ford Taurus, or going with eggnog-flavoured 5W30 engine oil over the holidays.

That would be forcing it if you ask me — like attaching fake antlers to a cat.

Like everybody, my most vivid memories of driving to a family Christmas event occurred when I was a kid, when Christmas was feverishly crucial.

Unfortunately the drives that stick out the most were the long ones to my uncle's farm up north.

Back then I routinely got car sick, so I remember a few times standing beside the car in the snow on some back road, in full puke mode. Hey, not every memory has to be a stupendously good one. The important thing is that they're memorable enough to lodge in your memory for the long haul.

Christmas Eve 17 years ago, when our daughter was just a year old, we stayed overnight at my mother's home, the ancestral bungalow in the suburbs. As usual, the kid refused to go to sleep at the appointed time — a habit she manages to maintain to this day. When she was still screaming well past midnight, I did what all fathers do under such circumstances — buckled her into the car seat, and drove around aimlessly until she fell asleep.

Not every memory has to be a stupendously good one. The important thing is that they're memorable enough to lodge in your memory for the long haul.

Driving around my old hometown, in the dead quiet of Christmas night, decorations and lights everywhere, daughter in the back slowly falling asleep, well … it wasn't the worst half hour I ever spent behind the wheel.

These days we have to make a relatively short run on Christmas Eve, about an hour door to door.

Simple, right? And with no chance of vomit?

Well, thankfully nausea is no longer in the picture, but things are far from simple. Trying not to forget and pack every present, trying to leave on time with four people with four different agendas, and trying to properly secure a broccoli casserole and Greek salad somewhere in the cargo area, is exhaustive and tricky stuff.

But that's precisely why there is such euphoria when we're finally on our way. Nothing left to do but enjoy the ride, hope there is no Feta cheese disaster in the trunk, and look forward to the festivities that will soon unfold.

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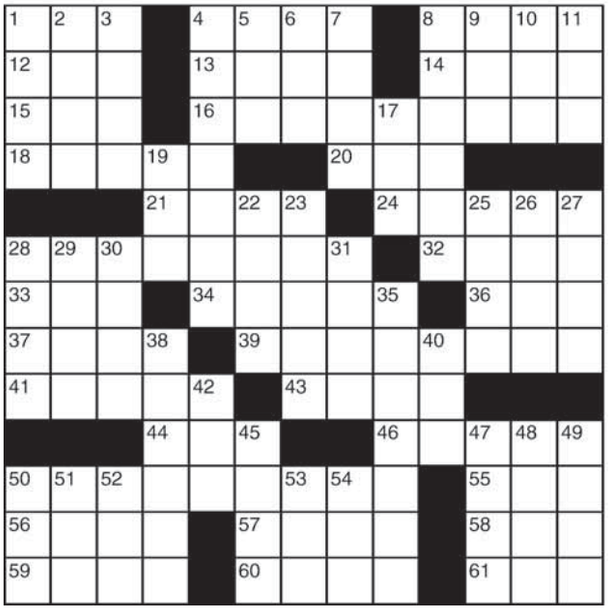
Crossword



Across
1 Foul
4 Supporters
8 Easter entrees
12 Actress Gardner
13 Somewhat
14 Shrek, e.g.
15 Trawler need
16 Jail
18 18th president
20 Obtained
21 Verdi opera
24 Intrinsically
28 Arab's hooded cloak
32 Clarinet insert
33 Anger
34 — Dame
36 Mr. Hammarskjöld
37 Culture medium
39 Rikki-Tikki-Tavi is one
41 Old photograph hue
43 Rules, for short
44 Have
46 Cowboy's greeting
50 1984 movie remade in 2011
55 Fish eggs
56 Inlet
57 Met melody
58 The whole enchilada
59 Burn some
60 Drove
61 Energy

Down
1 Gunshot sound
2 State with certainty
3 Information
4 Clique
5 Lawyers' org.
6 Zero
7 Sans escort
8 Owl, at times
9 Past
10 "— Doubtfire"
11 Catch a glimpse of
17 Jazz style
19 A Bobbsey twin
22 Dire prophecy
23 Titanic VIP
25 Start over
26 Red and Black
27 Lip
28 Diagonal
29 Press on
30 Harvest
31 Coastal flier
35 Highbrow
38 Hooligan
40 Bear, in Barcelona
42 Piercing tool
45 Biblical boatwright
47 Finish a film shoot
48 Clinton's 1996 opponent
49 Shrill bark
50 Media watchdog org.
51 Reaction to fireworks
52 Eggs in a lab
53 Raw rock
54 Round Table address

▶ Yesterday's answer

E	P	I	C		E	D	G	E		S	U	P		
M	I	C	A		T	E	E	M		P	R	O		
S	P	E	C	T	A	C	L	E		E	G	O		
			T	A	L	K		R	A	C	E	R		
G	A	S	U	P			B	A	L	I				
R	I	P	S			S	K	I	L	I	F	T	S	
A	D	E		P	L	E	A	D		I	R	A		
S	E	C	T	I	O	N	S		D	E	U	S		
		I	O	N	E			S	I	D	E	S		
G	I	M	M	E		L	A	M	A					
O	D	E		S	P	E	C	U	L	A	T	E		
T	E	N		A	H	E	M		U	N	I	T		
H	A	S		P	I	K	E		P	A	T	H		

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku

		9	2		6		7	
5		6	8	1		2		
	4						6	3
9			4		8		5	6
	6			2			9	
4	8		9		5			1
1	9						8	
		4		8	7	9		2
	3		6		2	5		

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

3	7	2	5	4	1	8	6	9
1	8	6	2	7	9	5	3	4
4	5	9	6	3	8	7	1	2
8	3	7	9	5	2	6	4	1
2	9	1	4	8	6	3	7	5
5	6	4	3	1	7	2	9	8
9	4	8	7	6	5	1	2	3
6	1	3	8	2	4	9	5	7
7	2	5	1	9	3	4	8	6

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

A Spaceman, Consummation has begun and I am your guide. Together we unlock the secrets of the stars. Your signal is fading. You are... my love. **A NIGHT OWL**

My Prince, Every morning is a wonderful morning waking up with you next to me! I love everything about you, think of you always and miss you when your gone. **YOUR DIRTY GIRL**

RJ Romeo, I miss you babe and I can't wait for you to come home to me for x-mas....I miss you and love you lots more than you'll ever know. **UR BABIEE**

Hubbyxoxo :P , Heyy idk why ur friends saying im pissed off at chu cause im not and w.e his name is idk him i never talked to him -.- btww I like you alot!!!!! :P 10/04/11 **WIFEYXOXOX :P**

A look at the weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Min -2°	Min -13°	Min -7°
Max -1°	Max -9°	Max -2°

Jenna Khan, Weather Specialist
"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM**

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 It may seem as if things are going wrong and there is little you can do about it, but it's all part of a wider plan.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 If you have a well defined goal and a sensible plan, you really cannot lose.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 You need to talk over your problems with someone you know will lend a sympathetic ear.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Is that the real you the world can see? Or is it one of your masks? If it's the latter don't forget that you are playing a role.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Look for ways to co-operate with those you work and do business with. You have wasted far too much time trying to outdo each other.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 You have become a bit too set in your ways of late and what happens today will bring that fact home.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Concentrate on the things that matter and don't waste time on each and every passing distraction.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You may feel out of touch with the spirit of the times, but is that bad?

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 After all the exertions of recent weeks, you are entitled to a little down time. Let life come to you.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 What you own and what you earn may be important to you but don't worry yourself sick about it.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 If you have a good idea — and chances are you have a brilliant one — get started on it now.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. Don't take colleagues' negative remarks to heart because they don't mean them. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

MARTIAL TREZZINI/KEYSTONE/THE AP

DANNY GOHLKE/ DAPD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Happy Holidays

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Meet Brenda.

Brenda is an assistant in the creative department. She was born in Compton and moved to Texas, where she worked at a company retail store. She now lives in Downtown LA with a cat named Chicken, and is known around the office for baking award winning cheesecakes. She is wearing the Sleeveless Lawn Button-Up and The Disco Short.

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